

small; no teeth in the palate, which is also without a longitudinal groove; no meatus auditorius externus visible.

*Coloration.*—Above dark chestnut color, the edges of the scales bordered with ash color, giving the whole a tessellated appearance; under part of abdomen and tail same color, but brighter; chin, snout, upper and under jaw yellow.

*Dimensions.*—Length of head 4 lines, greatest breadth 2 lines. Length of head and body 5 inches (Fr.); of tail 2 inches 4 lines.

*Geographical distribution.*—Liberia, West Coast of Africa.

*General Remarks.*—This animal has a general resemblance to the *Acontias meleagris* of Cuvier, the only species of *Acontias* hitherto described, but it differs from it in many important particulars, several of which become evident even upon a superficial examination. Thus it is only necessary to compare the plates of the head with the figure of them given in the fifty-eighth plate of Dumeril and Bibron, to perceive at once that it is not the same animal. The *A. meleagris* is also larger, measuring  $9\frac{1}{2}$  inches (Fr.); but the tail is nearly an inch shorter, measuring  $1\frac{1}{2}$  inches. It differs also in having an inferior eyelid, which *elegans* has not; and in the form of the eye, which in *meleagris* resembles a longitudinal slit, but which in *elegans* is circular. The longitudinal fissure in the posterior part of the rostral plate is straight in *meleagris*, in *elegans* it is curved; *meleagris* presents a longitudinal groove in the palate, *elegans* has none; the scales upon the body are hexagonal in *meleagris*, in *elegans* they are trapezoidal. The number of rows of scales differs in the two animals. In the one there are but fourteen, in the other twenty.

The species of reptiles just described, with a beautiful specimen of *Onychcephalus Liberiensis*, were presented to the Academy by Dr. Henry A. Ford of Liberia, the gentleman to whom we are also indebted for the magnificent skeleton of *Troglodytes gorilla*, the largest known *Troglodyte*.

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The Committee on the following paper by Dr. LeConte, reported in favor of publication in the Proceedings:

*Remarks on some Coleopterous insects collected by S. W. Woodhouse, M. D., in Missouri Territory and New Mexico.*

By JOHN L. LECONTE, M. D.

The collection of insects made by Dr. Woodhouse, to whom science is so much indebted for extensive researches on the natural history of the regions west of the Mississippi, consists chiefly of species from the boundary of the tract of land which the liberal policy of our Government has set apart for the Creek Indians, and were procured while he was attached to a surveying party under Capt. Sitgreaves, of the Topog. Corps. The bulk of the collection made in Texas and in New Mexico, has unfortunately been lost in the accidents to which the traveller is so frequently subjected in those wild and dangerous regions. The few, however, that remain, are of such interest as to cause us doubly to regret the destruction of the rest, and fervently to hope that the industry of future travellers may soon repair these unavoidable losses.

1. *Cicindela cuprascens* subelongata, subcylindrica, capite thoraceque fusco-æneis, hoc lateribus leviter rotundatis tenuiter albo-pubescente, impressionibus transversis profundis, linea longitudinali tenui, elytris thorace sesquialtoribus dense punctatis cupreis, macula basali, margine toto laterali, striga obliqua subhumerali, apice hamata, fascia media elongata valde refracta intus dentata, lunulaque apicali ochroleucis dilatatis, apice oblique sinuatis acutis, serrulatis; trochanteribus posticis testaceis; labro albo, transverso, edentato. Long. .4—·53.

*Cicindela blanda* var.  $\beta$ . Lec. Ann. Lyc. 4, 180.

I found several specimens of this elegant species on the Arkansas river, and have heretofore considered it as a variety of *C. blanda* Dej. After further ex-

amination I am convinced that it must be considered as distinct. It is closely allied to *C. blanda*, but is less elongated in its form, and the elytra, although cylindrical, are not so convex. The labrum is short, and, as in *C. blanda*, the teeth of the anterior edge are obsolete; the palpi are pale, with the tips brassy green. The thorax is very finely, not densely wrinkled; the sides are more rounded than in *C. blanda*, although as in that species, they are less convex in the female. The elytra are of a brilliant copper-color, more coarsely and densely punctured than in *C. blanda*. The markings are as in *C. blanda*, but very broad, and the upper part of the medial fascia is less tortuous. The elytra of the female is strongly excised on the outer edge near the tip, precisely as in *C. blanda*. The body beneath is greenish bronze, covered with fine dense white hair; the posterior trochanters are testaceous.

The insect that I have considered as *C. blanda* var.  $\gamma$  must also be separated as a distinct species under the name.

*C. tarsalis*, elongata, vix cylindrica, fusco-picea opaca, thorace lateribus rotundatis, utrinque leviter constricto, breviter albo pubescente, elytris ochreis, sutura antice lineolisque obliquis fuscis, apice oblique attenuatis serrulatis; labro transverso, edentato; tibiis testaceis trochantibus posticis flavis, tarsis posticis longissimis. Long. .48.

One male, Canootche river, Georgia. The diagnosis enables this species to be distinguished from the preceding and from *C. blanda*. The color is dull, without any metallic gloss. The elytra are less cylindrical and less convex, and the markings are so broad that the interstices between them are reduced to narrow fuscous lines; the punctures of the dark parts of the elytra are large and dense, but not deep. The tibiae are pale, with the tip darker; the posterior tarsi are more than one-fourth longer than in *C. blanda*. The body beneath is black, covered with short, dense white hair.

2. *Cicindela cumatilis* Lec. Ann. Lyc. 5, 173.

A variety of this beautiful species was found with the spots much larger than in the type, so that the medial band attains the margin, and is only interrupted on the disc: the spot anterior to the apical lunule is also enlarged, and there is a very minute white humeral dot.

3. *Cicindela* n. sp.

A very small species, probably allied to *C. germanica*, indicated only by a single elytron. The markings are so different from any other species within our territory, that a description of even this fragment will enable the species to be easily recognized.

The color is brownish black, without metallic lustre; the surface is sericeous with fine granulations; the punctures are distant, large and deep; the humeral lunule is very narrow; the oblique posterior part is curved; the margin is white, interrupted only at the apical lunule; the anterior band perpendicular, and united to the margin externally, descending slightly at its inner part, and terminating in a small spot near the suture; the margin along the apical lunule is finely serrate, and obliquely attenuated almost to the tip, which is very suddenly rounded, and almost truncate; the suture is armed with a very minute spine.

4. *Lachnophorus elegantulus* Man. Bull. Mosc. 1843, p. 43: ibid 1846, p. 7.

*Tachypus mediosignatus* Menétriès, Bull. Soc. Petrop. 1843. This pretty little insect seems to have a very extensive distribution. I found it in abundance on the banks of the Gila near the Pimas villages. Dr. Woodhouse took it on the Creek Boundary, and Mr. Pease brought a specimen from Mexico.

5. *Chlœnius vaser*, nigro piceus, capite cyaneo, thorace cyanescente, latitudine brevior, antrorsum angustato et lateribus rotundato, subtiliter obsolete punctato, elytris thorace latioribus dense punctulatis, et pubescentibus, striis fere ad apicem fortiter punctatis, antennarum basi pedibusque ferrugineis. Long. .45.

Creek Boundary. This species is allied to *C. tricolor*, *nemoralis*, *vicinus*, &c., but the punctures on the thorax are very small and almost obliterated. The labrum is wide, scarcely emarginate; the head is bright blue, very finely punctulate and wrinkled; the thorax is blueish, wider than long, at the apex narrower than at the base; very much rounded on the sides anteriorly; the base is truncate; the angles obtuse, not rounded; the disc scarcely convex, finely and very obsoletely punctured; the basal impressions long and shallow. The elytra are wider than the thorax, dull black; the striæ are deeply punctured nearly to the tip; the interstices are slightly convex, and very finely punctured. The first three joints of the antennæ, the palpi and the legs are ferruginous.

6. *Euryderus zabroides* Lec. An. Lyc. 4, 152, tab. 8, fig. 5.

The genus *Eurydera* Lap. seems to be founded upon good characters, although it was for a long time refused by entomologists. Its adoption requires a change of name for my genus, and in allusion to the singular form of the anterior tibiæ, I give *Nothopus* as the new generic name.

7. *Calosoma externum*. *Carabus externus* Say. J. Ac. Nat. Sc. 3, 150: Lec. An. Lyc. 4, 445. *Calosoma longipenne* Dej. Sp. Gen. 5, 568. This insect after all, seems to be a genuine *Calosoma*, by the structure of the antennæ and palpi. I have seen specimens without wings, but extensive observation has convinced me this is to be considered as accidental. Its form is more similar to *Carabus* than any other species of *Calosoma*.

8. *Euphoria melancholica* Schaum. An. Ent. Soc. Fr. 2d ser. 2, 374. A specimen from New Mexico has the thorax and elytra much less punctured than the Louisiana specimens, but I can find nothing worthy of being considered as a specific difference.

9. *Eleodes sulcata*, nigra, thorace parvo, ovato, parce punctulato, basi truncato, elytris ovalibus apice acutis, dorso depressis, postice valde declivibus, profunde sulcato-striatis, sulcis granulatis, femoribus anticis breviter armatis. Long. .75—97.

A fine species, abundant in every part of Missouri Territory and easily distinguished by its sulcate elytra. Head punctured. Thorax a little wider than long, rounded on the sides, narrowed behind; moderately convex, sparsely punctured, anterior angles prominent acute, base truncate. Elytra more than twice as wide as the thorax, elongate oval, depressed on the disc, deflexed at the apex, which is acute; the lateral margin obtuse; striæ broad, deep and obtuse, rough with elevated points; interstices not wider than the striæ, convex, marked each with a single series of distant punctures; epipleuræ less deeply striate than the disc. Anterior thighs armed with a short, sharp tooth. The female differs by having the elytra broader and less acute at the tip.

10. *Myodes scaber*, ater confertim punctatus, vertice elevato, thorace antrosum angustato, utrinque truncato, medio obsolete carinato, elytris parce punctatis, abdomineque flavis. Long. .35.

A very imperfect specimen from the Creek boundary, which is distinguished from another Southern species having a yellow abdomen, by its much larger size, more punctured head and thorax, and immaculate black feet. I am inclined to believe that the color of the abdomen is a sexual character as in the European *M. subditerus*.

11. *Acmeodera variegata*, cupreo-ænea, pilosa, thorace brevi confertissime punctato, macula laterali lutea, elytris basi minus convexis, fasciis irregularibus luteis anterioribus confluentibus. Long. .35.

The specimen of Dr. Woodhouse being imperfect, my description is taken from some collected by Mr. Fendler near Santa Fe.

Body coppery-bronzed, with erect brown hair. Thorax very densely and coarsely punctured, three times as wide as long, sides rounded anteriorly, al-

most parallel behind; margin behind the middle with a yellow spot. Elytra less convex at the base than in *A. pulchella*, with rows of large points, becoming striæ behind the middle; interstices with a single series of small distant punctures; the ordinary yellow bands are more numerous, and those before the middle are confluent, so only the suture, a large humeral spot and a transverse spot one fourth way from the base, remain bronzed. The two posterior fasciæ are oblique; the anterior one of them includes a small marginal spot; the tip is yellow. Beneath immaculate, bronzed, punctured. Varies with the anterior spot of the elytra large and confluent with the suture.

12. *Dicerca Woodhousii*, ænea, nitida, chalybeo-variegata, thorace cribratim punctato, brevi, lateribus valde rotundatis, antrorsum angustato, angulis posticis rectis, elytris apice integris, seriatim crenatis, maculis irregularibus opacis transversis profunde impressis. Long. .72—.97.

I take great pleasure in dedicating this fine species, to the enterprising traveler to whom we owe its discovery.

Body coppery-bronze, varied with bluish reflections, moderately stout and convex; head strongly punctured, with three faint confluent elevated lines on the front, labrum green; thorax cribrate, more than twice as broad as long, narrowed in front, very strongly rounded on the sides, narrowed a little towards the posterior angles, which are rectangular and sharp. Elytra with rows of large points, and with numerous deep impressed subconfluent spaces, which are opaque, densely punctured and finely pubescent; tip entire. Legs green bronzed, knees, tip of the tibiæ, and tarsi steel blue. Tip of the abdomen of the male very slightly truncate; of the female rounded.

13. *Pristilophus puncticollis*, niger, nitidus, thorace antrorsum subangustato, lateribus confertim, disco minus dense punctato, elytris crenato-striatis, interstitiis paulo convexis, distinctius punctulatis. Long. .75—.9.

This species is tolerably abundant in every part of Missouri Territory. It is closely allied to *P. morio* Germ. Zeitsch. 4, 85, but the elytral striæ are not so deep, and the interstices are but very slightly convex. Head strongly punctured. Thorax longer than wide, somewhat narrowed in front, slightly rounded on the sides, which are strongly margined; disc moderately punctured, sides very densely punctured, scarcely impressed towards the anterior angles, posterior angles slightly diverging. Elytra as wide as the thorax, striæ punctured, not deeply impressed, interstices scarcely convex, finely and irregularly punctured.

14. *Arhopalus charus*, Lec. Journ. Ac. Nat. Sci. 2d ser. 2, 17. Among those brought by Dr. Woodhouse is a variety, in which the yellow tip of the elytra is much larger, inclosing a black spot.

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The Committee to which was referred a paper by Prof. Baird and Mr. Charles Girard on the characteristics of some New Reptiles in the Museum of the Smithsonian Institution, reported in favor of publication in the Proceedings.

*Characteristics of some New Reptiles in the Museum of the Smithsonian Institution.*

By SPENCER F. BAIRD and CHARLES GIRARD.

Full descriptions and figures of these species will shortly appear in Capt. Stansbury's Report to Congress on the great Salt Lake (Utah.)

SIREDON LICHENOIDES, B.—Body uniform blackish brown, covered all over with licheniform patches of grayish yellow; snout rounded; tail compressed, and lanceolated; toes broad and short. Caught by R. H. Kern, Esq., in a lake at the head of Santa Fé Creek in New Mexico.